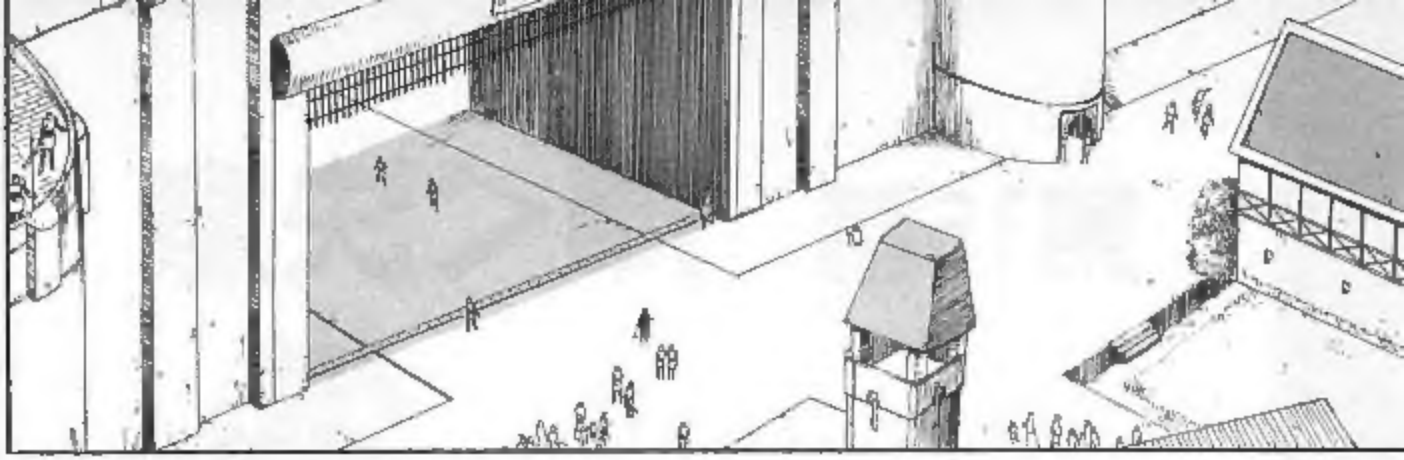
第15話　捧ぐ決意

CHAPTER 15: SACRIFICIAL RESOLVE



OIFAYE, HAVE YOU FINISHED GIVING YOUR INSTRUC-TIONS?
YES.
UNDER-STOOD, LORD CELICE!
THEN, LEAD THE CIVILIANS TO A SAFE PLACE.

WE'LL SORTIE AS SOON AS THE SURVEILLANCE SPOTS THRACIAN SOLDIERS.
I'VE LEFT THE SOLDIERS ON STANDBY, ACCORDING TO THEIR DISPOSITIONS.

GOT IT. THANKS.
"FALL"
OOPS!
MIS-TER!
OUCH, OUCH OUCH!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MISTER?
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SO, THIS WAY...
SORRY. I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
LORD CELICE, I'LL GUIDE HIM.
... CAN YOU STAND?
Y-YES!
I'LL BE PRAYING FOR YOUR SAFETY IN THIS BATTLE. PLEASE TAKE CARE...
LORD CELICE...
YEAH... THANKS.
...

ISN'T SHE A GOOD GIRL?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR FACE IS STIFF.
I REALLY ...
YES, RANA.
EH?
MY FACE... WAS STIFF...?
DON'T STAND STILL LOOKING LIKE THAT. IT'S DISGUSTING.
YOUR FACE WAS RE-FLECTING YOUR THOUGHTS. WHAT'S IN YOUR MIND?

... I DON'T KNOW.
I WAS LOST IN THOUGHT ...?
DON'T YOU EVEN REALIZE THAT, YOU DASTARD?
... BUT I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T DENY IT, EITHER.
WHAT?!
I'M ALRIGHT, ALESS.
EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BRINGING MY PERSONAL ISSUES TO THE BATTLEFIELD.
HE SEEMS TO BE KEEPING WATCH IN THE SURVEIL-LANCE ROOM, INSIDE THE CASTLE.
ALESS, DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
BUT MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, I WORRY ABOUT LEAF.
... FEH. WELL, THAT'S FINE THEN.

ALESS, IF YOU COULD...
ALESS!
NO CLUE. LOOK FOR YOURSELF.
BUT THERE ARE SIX SURVEILLANCE ROOMS, WHICH OF THOSE WOULD BE...
ALESS, PLEASE! GO LOOK FOR LORD LEAF WITH LORD CELICE...
YOU HELP LOOK FOR HIM, THEN.
LORD CELICE IS WORRIED ABOUT LORD LEAF!
BUT IT'LL BE FAST IF THE THREE OF US DO IT, RIGHT?
THE CASTLE IS LARGE, IT WOULD TAKE TOO MUCH TIME AND WE COULD EVEN MISS EACH OTHER..

ALESS ...
ARE YOU GOING OR NOT?
... THANK YOU,
ALESS.

... ALL RIGHT.
ANY SIGN OF THRACIAN SOLDIERS?
HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SO FAR.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, FINN?
THRACIA HAS PROBABLY NOTICED THE LIBERATION ARMY HAS ARRIVED IN MANSTER.
HOWEVER, DUE TO SIR SETY'S INTERCEPTIONS, THEY MUST ALREADY HAVE CONCLUDED THEY CAN'T TAKE OVER MANSTER WITH A SMALL FORCE.
SO, THEY'RE LIKELY TO COME WITH A PROPER, FULL-BLOWN ARMY.

... YEAH.
ARE YOU AFRAID?
EH? WHAT, NANNA?
OUR INCURSION IN THRACIA LIKELY WON'T BE VERY DIFFICULT...
HOW-EVER, IF WE DEFEAT MOST OF THEIR FORCES HERE...
...
YEAH.

...! NANNA...!
THE ONE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MIGHT BE IN THAT ARMY, LORD LEAF.
YOU TELL ME, NANNA!
OF SEEING THAT?
AREN'T YOU AFRAID...
I'M NOT AFRAID.
MY BODY IS READY.

I'M READY TO DO WHAT I MUST, AS WELL...
DEFEAT TRABANT, AND...
BRING HER BACK, FOR SURE!
NANNA, ARE YOU AFRAID OF A BIG ARMY COMING?
NO.
... DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING PROTECTED BY ME?
IF YOU WANT ME TO LOOK FORWARD TO IT, THEN I WILL.

LE...
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..ALL RIGHT.
ALWAYS STAY BY MY SIDE, OKAY?

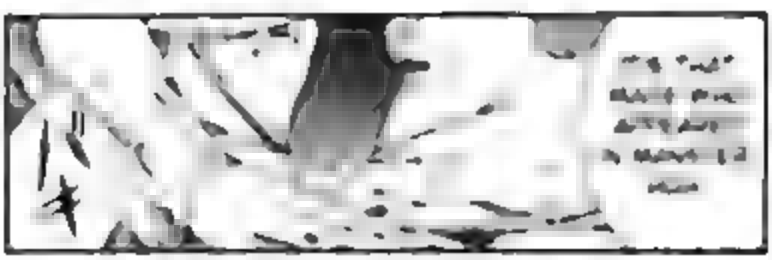
!
OY, CELICE!
WHA... WHA WHA?!
!
!

YOU DASTARD, WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINK...
S-S-SINCE WHEN WERE YOU STANDING THERE?!
DO YOU WANT ANYTHING, ALESS?
...AH.
"DO I WANT ANYTHING?"
SINCE THE "STAY BY MY SIDE" PART.
FINN, YOU WERE HERE TOO?!
... YES. IN FACT, WE WERE TALKING UNTIL A MOMENT AGO.
YOU'RE ANNOYING. SHUT UP, LEAF.
ARGH!

YOU'RE REALLY CLOSE, AREN'T YOU?
CELICE, WHAT WERE YOU THINK...
WHA!
YEAH, WE ARE. WELL, WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER EVER SINCE CHILDHOOD...
...
JULIA! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!
?
CELICE, WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! AH!
I SEE. MAY YOUR HAPPINESS LAST FOREVER!

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE ARMY THAT'S COMING.
NO SIGN OF THE ENEMY YET, RIGHT?
YEAH.
...CELICE
SOMETHING I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU ABOUT..

LORD CELICE.
... THAT'S...
I'm...
TELL YOU.

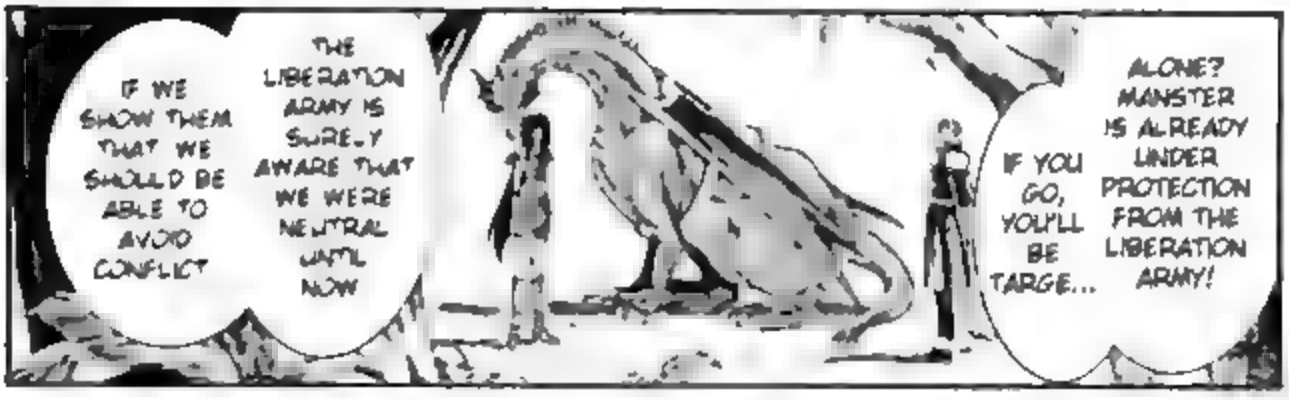


THEY HAVE
SURELY THE WORK OF POWER-FUL MAG- ELWIND OR STRONGER

SO, I'D LIKE TO GO TO MANSTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND EXACT OUR VENGEANCE.
THEY'VE KILLED OUR COMRADES HORRIBLY YOU KNOW?
FOR HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO BE LIKE THIS?
AND THE CIVILIANS TOO WERE SURELY STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE
HE WAS DESPERATELY PROTECTING THE CIVILIANS
KNOWING THAT, WHY SHOULD WE MURDER INNOCENT CIVILIANS?
CORUTA
EVEN THOUGH THAT MAGE HAS KILLED OUR COMRADES, I CANNOT ATTACK HIM.
THAT AGAIN? PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER

LADY ALTHENA!

CORUTA I'LL TALK TO THEM SO THAT CIVILIANS WON'T BE INVOLVED IN BATTLE


IF WE SHOW THEM THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID CONFLICT
THE LIBERATION ARMY IS SURELY AWARE THAT WE WERE NEUTRAL UNTIL NOW
IF YOU GO, YOU'LL BE TARGE...
ALONE? MANSTER IS ALREADY UNDER PROTECTION FROM THE LIBERATION ARMY!

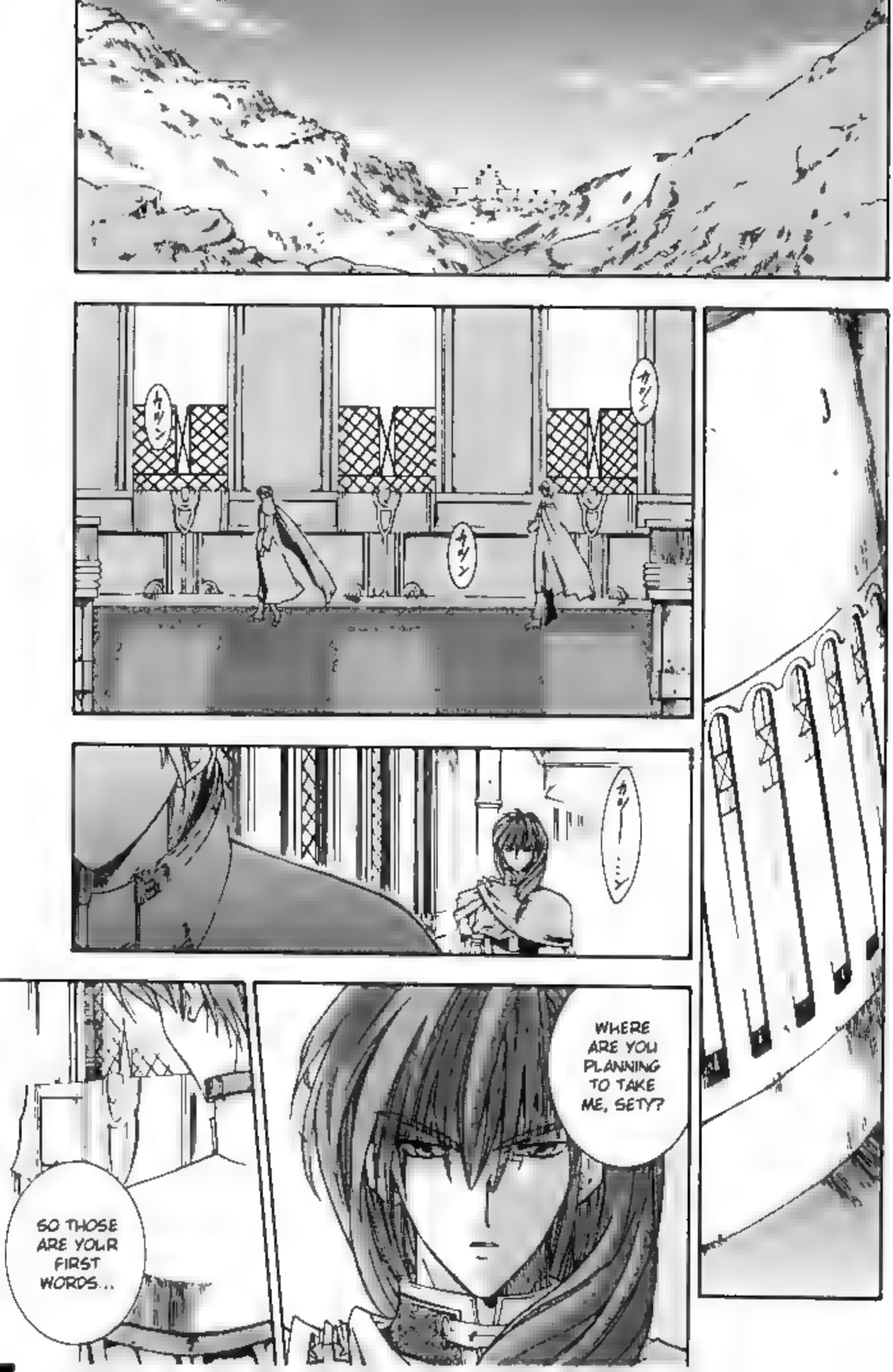
THERE'S NO WAY THE LIBERATION ARMY WILL SURRENDER MANSTER LIKE THAT!
NON-SENSE!

THRACIA SHALL NOT TAKE OVER MANSTER!
... OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY, FOR THAT MATTER.
I'M SURE THE KING WOULD BE FURIOUS IF HE WERE TO HEAR THOSE WORDS...
EVEN IF IT'S TO EXPAND OUR COUNTRY... DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT OF MISTREATING AND MURDERING PEOPLE IN ORDER TO SUBDUE OTHER LANDS...?
ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS THE EMPIRE...?
...FATHER...

EVEN IF IT'S AN ORDER FROM FATHER...
...!
CAN'T...
!...
SOME-HOW... ELSE...
ISN'T THERE SOME OTHER WAY... OF EX-PANDING OUR COUN-TRY...?
HOWEVER, I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS WAY OF DOING IT! I'LL TRY TALKING TO FATHER LATER!
WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT THIS ANYMORE!
MY COUNTRY HAS ALREADY DECAYED THAT MUCH!

!
WE'RE HEADING TO MANSTER NOW!
ALL TROOPS, PREPARE TO CHARGE!
LADY ALTHENA, YOU ARE SURELY HESITATING BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR FIRST REAL BATTLE.
CORLITA, WHAT ARE YOU-
I'LL TAKE COMMAND FROM NOW ON.
"NO MATTER WHAT ALTHENA SAYS, DO NOT HALT THE ATTACK", HE SAID.
OUR KING HAS GIVEN ME STRICT ORDERS, YOU SEE
ARE YOU SAYING YOU CAN'T FOLLOW MY ORDERS?!
I AM THE COMMANDER!

WAIT, CORUTA!
KUH...
CORUTA!!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WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING TO TAKE ME, SETY?
SO THOSE ARE YOUR FIRST WORDS...

...ED ME HERE
BECAUSE
YOU HAD
SOMETHING

MOTHER PASSED AWAY, CORRECT?
THEN YOU PROBABLY AREN'T AWARE...
THAT'S WHY I LEFT ON A JOURNEY TO FIND YOU, FATHER.
MOTHER WANTED TO MEET YOU ONE MORE TIME... BEFORE SHE PASSED AWAY.
...!
FATHER... YOU'RE TOO COLD!
EVEN AFTER HEARING THE NEWS OF MOTHER'S DEATH, YOU WON'T SHED A SINGLE TEAR!

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DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU, FATHER.
...no...
ギュッ
I DON'T WANT TO UNDER-STAND!

THRA-
CIAN
SOL-
DIERS!

THE THRACIAN SOL-DIERS...
COULD YOU SHOW ME?
LORD CELICE?
SETY!

THEN FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF LEVIN, THE SUPPORT DIVISION COMMANDER!
YOU'RE A MAGE, RIGHT?
YES!
...UNDER-STOOD!
TOWN PATROLS, HURRY TO YOUR DESIGNATED POSITIONS!
SURVEIL-LANCE GUARDS, PROTECT THE CASTLE!
MISTER SETY!

LET'S HURRY TO WHERE LORD LEVIN IS!
YES, TIN!
LET'S HURRY
TO WHERE THE TACTICIAN IS
YOU SAID YOU HAVE TWO WIFE OR CHILDREN...?
...DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE PUTTING OUR EXISTENCE

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WE CAN CALL FATHER...
LEAF, LET'S HURRY!
YEAH!
LORD LEAF...

... IT'S NOW.

NOW,
I'M GOING!

IF ONLY A SINGLE FLOWER COULD BLOSSOM HERE...
MY THRACIA.
カラン
HIS MAJESTY THE KING HAS RETURNED!
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WELCOME BACK,
ガラン
FATHER...
ガラン